

CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions or listings of claims pending in the application:

- 5 1. (currently amended) A ~~carrier for allowing a user to carry a chromatographic column assembly comprising~~ comprising:
a column support structure ~~and structure~~ comprising at least one ring,
a wound tubular chromatographic column mounted on the column support structure,
and
10 ~~the~~ a carrier connected to the support structure along the at least one ring, extending generally along a plane of the at least one ring between opposite sides of the at least one ring, the carrier including at least one connecting part for connecting the carrier to the support structure.
- 15 2. (currently amended) A ~~carrier~~ An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is in the form of a strip.
3. (currently amended) A ~~carrier~~ An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the at least one connecting part comprises an aperture in the carrier.
- 20 4. (currently amended) A ~~carrier~~ An assembly according to claim 1, the carrier including a further connecting part for connecting the carrier to a further chromatographic column assembly comprising a further support structure and a further wound chromatographic column mounted on the further support structure.
- 25 5. (currently amended) A ~~carrier~~ An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises metal.
- 30 6. (currently amended) A ~~carrier~~ An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the carrier includes at least one part adapted for mounting a chromatographic column ~~connector~~ connector thereon.
7. (currently amended) A ~~carrier~~ An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the carrier includes at least one part for displaying information.

8. (currently amended) ~~A carrier~~An assembly according to claim 1, the carrier including a device for holding a chromatographic column.
- 5 9. (currently amended) ~~A carrier~~An assembly according to claim 1, the carrier including a measurement indicia.
10. (canceled).
- 10 11. (currently amended) ~~The combination of claim 10~~An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the column support structure includes one or more connectors for connecting to the carrier.
12. (currently amended) ~~A combination of claim 11~~, An assembly according to claim 11, wherein each connector comprises a hook.
- 15 13. (currently amended) ~~A combination of claim 10~~, An assembly according to claim 11, wherein the column support structure comprises upper and lower ~~annular members~~ rings connected by a plurality of connecting bars, at least one of ~~which forms the~~ connecting bars forming the one or more connectors.
- 20 14. (currently amended) A strip form handle for connecting to a winding structure on which a chromatographic column is mounted, equipped with at least two clips formed along a major surface of the handle to hold chromatographic column ends.
- 25 15. (currently amended) A strip form handle ~~for connecting to a winding structure on which a chromatographic column is mounted~~according to claim 14, wherein the strip form handle contains chromatographic column identification information.
- 30 16. (currently amended) A strip form handle ~~for connecting to a winding structure on which a chromatographic column is mounted~~according to claim 14, wherein the strip form- handle contains a ruler for measuring column insertion length.
17. (currently amended) A chromatography column ~~apparatus~~assembly comprising:

~~a first chromatographic column assembly comprising a first winding column support structure comprising a pair of generally parallel rings connected by a plurality of connecting bars, each of the connecting bars extending between a first ring of the pair of rings and a second ring of the pair of rings, and~~
5 ~~a first tubular gas chromatographic column wound around the first winding column support structure; and~~
~~a strip-shaped carrier attached to the first winding column support structure substantially at two opposite ends of the carrier, for allowing a user to carry the chromatographic column apparatus assembly, the carrier being connected to the~~
10 ~~column support structure along at least one of the pair of rings, and extending generally along a plane of the at least one of the pair of ring between opposite sides of the at least one of the pair of rings.~~

18. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus assembly~~ of claim 17, further comprising ~~a second~~
15 ~~chromatographic column assembly comprising a second winding column support structure and a second tubular gas chromatographic column wound around the second winding column support structure, wherein the second winding column support structure is positioned concentrically within the first winding column support structure and is attached to the carrier.~~

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19-20. (canceled)

21. (new) A method of assembling a gas chromatographic column assembly, comprising:
winding a first tubular gas chromatographic column around a first column support
25 structure, the first column support structure comprising at least one ring;
connecting a carrier to the support structure along the at least one ring, such that the carrier extends generally along a plane of the at least one ring between opposite sides of the at least one ring, the carrier including at least one connecting part for connecting the carrier to the support structure.

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22. (new) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
winding a second tubular gas chromatographic column around a second column support structure;

disposing the second column support structure concentrically within the first column support structure; and
attaching the carrier to the second column support structure.

- 5 23. (new) A chromatographic column assembly comprising:
a chromatographic column support structure for winding a chromatographic column thereon, the column support structure comprising at least one ring, and
a carrier connected to the support structure at opposite sides of the at least one ring, and extending generally along a plane of the at least one ring.
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24. (new) An assembly according to claim 23, wherein the carrier is shaped as a strip having a major surface substantially parallel to the plane of the at least one ring.
25. (new) An assembly according to claim 23, wherein the column support structure comprises a pair of hooks situated along opposite sides of the at least one ring, and wherein the carrier comprises a first pair of apertures positioned at opposite ends of the carrier, for receiving the pair of hooks to secure the carrier to the column support structure.
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26. (new) An assembly according to claim 23, wherein the carrier comprises a second pair of apertures positioned inward relative to the first pair of apertures, for receiving a further pair of hooks of a further column support structure.
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27. (new) An assembly according to claim 23, further comprising a chromatographic column connector mounted on the carrier, for fluidically connecting to the chromatographic column.
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28. (new) An assembly according to claim 23, wherein the carrier includes an information display substantially parallel to the at least one ring.
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29. (new) An assembly according to claim 28, wherein the information display comprises a distance measurement indicator.

30. (new) An assembly according to claim 23, wherein the column support structure comprises upper and lower parallel rings connected by a plurality of connecting bars, the connecting bars supporting the chromatographic column.

5 31. (new) A strip form handle according to claim 14, wherein each of the two clips comprises a pair of adjacent, opposite-facing protruding tabs cut from the handle.

10 32. (new) A strip form handle according to claim 14, further comprising a chromatographic column connector for fluidically coupling two chromatographic columns.

15 33. (new) A strip form handle according to claim 14, further comprising a pair of connecting parts positioned at opposite ends of the handle, for connecting the handle to the winding structure.

34. (new) A strip form handle according to claim 33, wherein each of the connecting parts comprises an aperture extending through the handle.

20 35. (new) A strip form handle for connecting to a winding structure on which a chromatographic column is mounted, comprising a chromatographic column connector for fluidically coupling two chromatographic columns.

25 36. (new) A strip form handle for connecting to a winding structure on which a chromatographic column is mounted, the strip form handle comprising:
a pair of connecting parts positioned at opposite ends of the handle, for connecting the handle to the winding structure;
a chromatographic column connector protruding from a major surface of the handle, for fluidically coupling two chromatographic columns; and
a pair of clips formed along the major surface of the handle, for holding
30 chromatographic column ends.

37. (new) A strip form handle according to claim 36, wherein each of the connecting parts comprises an aperture extending through the handle and facing the major surface of the handle.